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March 06, 2020

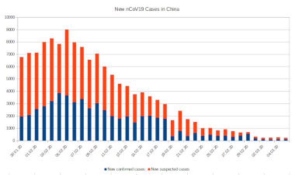
Coronavirus - Bad Preparation And Propaganda Increase The Onsetting Panic

The current public reaction to the coronavirus pandemic confuses even propaganda specialists:

> Blake News @blakehounshell - 1:19 UTC · 6 Mar 2020
> I was looking at this timeline of the H1N1 pandemic put out by the CDC, and it's way worse than I remembered. I don't recall the same daily drumbeat of coverage but that was a different news environment. Or was I just not paying close attention?

The current Covid-19 panic was caused by seven weeks of daily anti-China propaganda as the international media abused the crisis to bash Chinese officials, citizens and their culture. H1N1 originated in the U.S. which utterly failed to contain it. It was therefore not propagandized.

China continues with its excellent efforts to get the epidemic under control.



bigger

Today China reported 143 new cases of confirmed infections and 102 new cases of suspected infections. But while the number of new cases within China continues to decline the Chinese government has to confront a new problem. What is it going to do to prevent newly imported cases?

> On March 5, the Chinese mainland reported 16 new imported confirmed cases from overseas (11 in Gansu province, 4 in Beijing municipality, and 1 in Shanghai municipality). As of 24:00 on March 5, the Chinese mainland had reported 36 imported confirmed cases from overseas.

China criticized other countries when they closed their borders to people from China. It will find it difficult to tell others that they are not allowed to come.

Iran, Italy and South Korea now have more coronavirus cases per capita than China which has 0.057% per inhabitant. Iran has 0.059%, Italy has 0.063% cases per capita and in South Korea 0.132% of all inhabitants are infected. These numbers are likely to increase. They look very small but would explode if no serious measures were taken.

Covid-19 mainly hits older people. There were only few cases which involved children and there was doubt that children could be infected at all. But a new study suggests that children are as susceptible as adults. They just don't show strong symptoms. To really fight a coronavirus cluster in a local area thus requires to close all nearby schools down. This will unfortunately increase the social disruption.

The death rate in Italy confirms the trend that mostly elderly die from the disease (machine translation):

> The average age of deceased and positive patients in Covid-2019 is 81 years, mostly men. They, in more than two thirds of cases, have three or more pre-existing pathologies.
>
> This was confirmed by an analysis conducted by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità on 105 Italian patients who died up to 4 March.
> ...
> The average age of the patients examined is 81 years, about 20 years higher than that of the patients who contracted the infection. There are 28 women (26.7%).
>
> According to ISS data, 42.2% of the deaths are in the age group between 80 and 89 years. 32.4% were between 70 and 79, while 8.4% between 60 and 69, 2.8% between 50 and 59 and 14.1% over 90 years.

Only managers of pension funds will like those numbers.

The general death rate estimates for nCov19 infections have been lowered a bit. Right after the first outbreak in Wuhan city it had the highest death rate with some 14% of all cases. That number decreased strongly as the city received the resources it needed. It is now near three percent. The death rate in China outside of Hubai province is about 0.7%. If there is a significant number of symptomless infections the real number will be even lower.

The biggest danger then is the lack of capacity in medical institutions. China was able to quickly build new hospitals in Wuhan and it moved 40,000 health workers from outside the city to Wuhan to help with the epidemic.

The U.S. and European countries are unlikely do be able to make similar efforts if an outbreak widens. That is why they must immediately react to new clusters and prevent those from growing further. Testing must become widely available and it must be for free. Otherwise cases will continue to linger in certain communities and then suddenly lead to wider outbreaks. This is not the way to beat an epidemic:

> Through interviews with dozens of public-health officials and a survey of local data from across the country, *The Atlantic* could only verify that 1,895 people have been tested for the coronavirus in the United States, about 10 percent of whom have tested positive. And while the American capacity to test for the coronavirus has ramped up significantly over the past few days, local officials can still test only several thousand people a day, not the tens or hundreds of thousands indicated by the White House’s promises.

Even U.S. nurses who had contact with corona patients have trouble to get tested.

Some Iranian officials started to take the outbreak seriously only after several of their colleagues fell ill. It seems that the current White House resident has a similar mentality. He will only start a serious effort after people near to him test positive or fall ill. Trump requested only $2.5 billion from Congress to fight the epidemic. The Senate then passes a $8.3 billion spending bill for coronavirus related issues. That is still not enough and more urgent legislative measures must be taken.

Trump is best advised to just shut up and let the professionals do their job. Politicizing the epidemic will only raise distrust in the official statements:

> When Vice President Mike Pence directed scientists to clear messages with the White House, he got it exactly backwards: The political class should clear health messages with trusted scientists at the CDC and NIH.

The global economic shock the epidemic was expected to causes is setting in. Airlines get hammered as more and more people decline to travel:

> The shares of the top seven US airlines reacted sharply today, with drops as of mid-afternoon ranging from -6.8% for Delta to -16% for Spirit Airlines, which is now down 49% since January 17 before the coronavirus threatened the travel industry.
> ...
> The IATA’s new estimates see a spectrum between two scenarios for 2020:
>
> - In the “limited spread” scenario, where the virus is “contained in the current markets with over 100 cases as of March 2,” global passenger revenues would take a $63-billion hit, or 11% of revenues in 2020.
> - In the “extensive spread” scenario, where the virus is in “all markets that currently have 10 or more confirmed COVID-19 cases as of 2 March,” and “with a broader spreading” of the virus, global passenger revenues would take a $113-billion hit, or 19% of revenues in 2020.

Several large airlines will go bankrupt and thousands of people will lose their jobs.

The panic around the epidemic creates a demand shock in two different ways. Some products are suddenly in high demand and shortages appear as people are hording toilet paper and masks. On the other side spending on restaurant visits and vacations will evaporate. There will also be supply shortages as companies with infected workers, especially in China, have shut down.

All this creates disruptions and economic losses for companies and for many, many individuals.

Some companies are doing the right things. As there is an outbreak in Seattle Microsoft has told its employees who can work from home to do so. But there are also hourly workers who work for vendors and who staff its on-campus cafes. Microsoft promises to take care of them:

> We recognize the hardship that lost work can mean for hourly employees. As a result, we’ve decided that Microsoft will continue to pay all our vendor hourly service providers their regular pay during this period of reduced service needs. This is independent of whether their full services are needed. This will ensure that, in Puget Sound for example, the 4,500 hourly employees who work in our facilities will continue to receive their regular wages even if their work hours are reduced.

Such sanity should be more widespread.

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Previous *Moon of Alabama* posts on the issue:

- The Coronavirus - No Need To Panic - Jan 25 2020
- Novel Coronavirus Defies Conspiracy Theories As Data Shows Its Coming Decline - Feb 1 2020
- The Epidemic Recedes - Number Of New Coronavirus Cases In Decline - Feb 8 2020
- Coronavirus - Statistical Change Causes Confusion - New Case Count Continues To Decline - Feb 13 2020
- Coronavirus - The Decline Of New Cases Continues - Economic Ripples Begin To Emerge - Feb 21 2020
- As Virus Spreads Over The Planet Governments Are Slow To React - Feb 27 2020
- Coronavirus - Its Time To Press Your Government To React Faster - Feb 29 2020

Posted by b on March 6, 2020 at 18:55 UTC | Permalink

Comments

It has always been easiest to control imaginary epidemics.

Posted by: Vonu | Mar 6 2020 18:58 utc | 1

I saw a posting on Propublica that made an important point: death rates are skewed early during an outbreak because deaths are solid markers (numerator) but number of infected known is certainly a subset of actual people who have the disease - particularly when testing isn't available and common.
Also, early during an outbreak, the known infected tend to be those that have serious cases such that they end up in the hospital - so that also skews numbers.

Posted by: c1ue | Mar 6 2020 19:01 utc | 2

If there is a significant number of symptomless infections the real (death rate) number will be even lower.

That's the point. As long as not a significant number of all people in a certain area are tested, regardless of whether they show symptoms or not, no one can tell the real death rate. No one knows the number of symptomfree infectants.

Posted by: Cemi | Mar 6 2020 19:11 utc | 3

Capitalism panic?
Posted at 16:0716:07
How many don't earn enough to get sick pay?

Reality Check

There's been lots of talk about whether workers in the UK who have to isolate themselves due to coronavirus will be eligible for statutory sick pay (SSP), which is a payment of £94.25 a week paid to employees and agency workers (not self-employed people) who are unable to work.

You also need to be earning at least £118 a week to get SSP. Trade union umbrella body the TUC said that 2m workers would be ineligible on this basis, as they don't earn enough.

We couldn't find that figure so we asked the Office for National Statistics to work it out for us.

They estimated that there were 1,766,000 jobs done by adults in the UK which paid less than £118 a week. The number of people involved is likely to be somewhat lower than this because one person could have more than one of these jobs.

About 70% of those jobs are done by women.
(from the BBC live https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-asia-51764135)

Posted by: Mina | Mar 6 2020 19:13 utc | 4

Lawyers are among the professions who are going to be busy thanks to the virus. All these people on cruises suing for not being informed in advance of the risks!

Posted by: Mina | Mar 6 2020 19:15 utc | 5

It's China's fault why we, in the U.S., are not prepared says the pompous one.

The dog ate my notes.

Pompeo Claims ‘Imperfect Coronavirus Data’ From China Has Put US ‘Behind the Curve

FFS. you had months to prepare...since 12/2019. And if we rollback to 09/2019 the swine and avian flu were raging in China. If TPTB were alert " Preparedness" but no, we are the exceptional ones and this is our opportunity to trade pork and poultry.

Diseases need no passports.

Posted by: Likklemore | Mar 6 2020 19:28 utc | 6

Trump praises Coronavirus:

"Rep. Don Beyer (D-Va.) urged the U.S. public to 'never forget the moment when, amid growing fear and suffering across the nation and the deaths of Americans, President Donald J. Trump went on national television and praised the coronavirus.'"

I again link this article "'The projected death of 11 million Americans would be a fair price to pay for better long term stock growth, says a capitalist extremist.'" No, it wasn't Albright.

I hope people cough and spew directly into the faces of such vermin. In what way do they differ from the Nazi Death Camp worker aside from the fact that the latter was likely a conscript while the former are cheerleaders.

Posted by: karlof1 | Mar 6 2020 19:30 utc | 7

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thanks b.. this is an informative article.. i 2nd your thoughts on the example microsoft is setting in the seattle area.. corps and gov'ts have to get behind this quickly and strongly..

Posted by: james | Mar 6 2020 19:36 utc | 8

Posted by: Likklemore | Mar 6 2020 19:28 utc | 6

Just posted similar ZeroHedge article in the open thread. Don't be surprise if Pompeo blame China for stealing USA Covid-9.

Covid-19 is not "if", "when" but **it's here!!**

Posted by: JC | Mar 6 2020 19:37 utc | 9

> trusted scientists at the CDC and NIH

Yes there are some trusted scientists at CDC and NIH, but none in the leadership. They are as corrupt and useless as any other important federal agency. They have public relations programs that include research, rather than the other way around. Even their public service announcement videos are crude - the average junior high student could do better. But that is what happens when everything is contracted out to the private sector - just like the Pentagon!

Unfortunately it is a long and very complicated story that interests only the affected patients and their small circles of friends. Perhaps the impending medical disaster will spur a few people to look a little closer at these agencies run as slush funds for selected important research institutions.

As an example, NIH currently spends about $2.5 Billion per year on Alzheimers - close to 10% of the budget. It has thrown huge sums at the problem for years and years, and still there is not one effective treatment and nothing on the horizon. Current theories result in failure after failure, but they are incapable of developing new ideas or directions, and there is little reason to expect this to change anytime soon. Just one more example of the New Dark Ages...

Posted by: Trailer Trash | Mar 6 2020 19:41 utc | 10

@ b
The panic around the epidemic creates a demand shock in two different ways. Some products are suddenly in high demand and shortages appear as people are hording toilet paper and masks. [.]

This is fuelled by the governments.

In the UK and Canada the Health Minister advised their citizens " go shopping" - daily essentials, food, water, milk, medication. In the UK fuel for your car was included.
No kidding. LINK

> [.]Advice from the health minister in Canada
>
> Last week, federal Health Minister Patty Hajdu suggested that people consider stockpiling food and medicine.
>
> “It’s really about, first of all, making sure that you do have enough supplies so if someone in your family becomes ill, if you yourself become ill, that you have what you need to survive for a week or so without going outside,” she said.
>
> Other health officials, like Ottawa Public Health’s Dr. Vera Etches, has also said staying well-supplied is good standby advice that’s always applicable — not just in this case.
>
> She said public health agencies warn all the time that people should have provisions for unexpected emergencies, including snowstorms, power outages and even possible pandemics.
>
> On its website, the Canadian government does **have a list of supplies** each household should have in case of an emergency. It advises that the supplies — which include two litres of water per person per day and food that doesn’t spoil easily — should be stored as an “emergency kit” in a backpack or duffle bag.
>
> [.]

Posted by: Likklemore | Mar 6 2020 19:49 utc | 11

Likklemore @ 6:

The White House should not have needed to look very far to China to prepare for a coronavirus epidemic within the US.

During the 2019-2020 influenza season, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 15 million people came down with flu, of whom 140,000 required hospitalisation. 8,200 deaths were recorded. Over a 4-month period, that averages to 2,050 deaths per month. This is in a country with 1/4 of the population of China's.

If the White House failed to recognise a major health crisis already simmering on its own doorstep, what hope can be held for when the coronavirus epipdemic starts sweeping through the inland US, taking out the elderly, the poor and the homeless?

Posted by: Jen | Mar 6 2020 20:01 utc | 12

Hate to disagree with your entire thesis, b, but I have seen very very little China-bashing wrt Corona.

In fact, during his press conference the other day, POTUS praised President Xi to the sky, complimenting the job he has done and the Chinese, in general.

Perhaps you are indeed seeing this on a few outlets or feeds, perhaps you follow neolib and cons on Twitter too much. But I can tell you unequivocally, that the media that matters here in the U.S., obviously excluding the bias rags like CNN, MSNBC, SLATE, etc. there is no framing their story with finger-pointing. On the contrary, news stories here are focusing on local outbreaks, county and school district shutdowns, and hoarding of toilet paper.

I repeat, there is no China-bashing from any outlet that matters. The "globally-inclined" mind who leans towards prepping and hoarding dry goods are looking at this situation from a religious happening, not a political one.

Sometimes it feels that those who will defend China to the death overstate the venom geared towards China, in general. IMO, it should really be more, but obviously of the protectionist, nationalist variety and not the geopolitical hegemonic. IOW, y'all paranoid.

Posted by: Nemesiscalling | Mar 6 2020 20:09 utc | 13

Looking at your story again, b, and noticing you didn't even mention the press conference POTUS gave a few days ago where he did exactly what you do not give him credit for in your piece.

He said,

Don't panic...

President Xi is doing great...

Pence will be the coordinator...

Here are some health experts who will tell you not to panic..

*promptly leaves podium and lets health experts from CDC and NIH talk.

(Not that the CDC is beyond questioning or doubt wrt prevention of infectious disease, but he does yield to them)

Posted by: NemesisCalling | Mar 6 2020 20:14 utc | 14

Anything from Microsoft is a virus in itself.

Posted by: bjd | Mar 6 2020 20:25 utc | 15

A Jewish lawyer in New York City and nine members of his family have tested positive for SARS CoV-2. His family is prominent and may have infected people at a large Bar Mitzva, a Jewish university, a place of worship, and commuters on the subway to and from his law office.

Many of these exposed Jews attended the recent 2020 AIPAC jamboree. About 70% of the US Congress also attended this AIPAC mass event, potentially making Washington DC a super spreader locale. AIPAC issued a warning to all attendees to self quarantine. The state of Israel has imposed mandatory quarantines for all returning attendees of the AIPAC conference. Israel is mirroring the aggressive steps that China is taking to quell the epidemic as currently 100,000 Israeli citizens are under quarantine.
https://www.trunews.com/stream/aipac-super-spreader-did-israeli-lobbyists-infect-u-s-congress-with-coronavirus

There is evidence that the virus originated in the US, as it is the only source with all six haplotypes (strains) of SARS CoV-2 and has multiple incidences of containment failure.
https://www.globalresearch.ca/china-coronavirus-shocking-update/5705196

Other studies have shown that China is fighting the “C” haplotype which has mutated into the “L” form from the older “S” form. Apparently, the “L” form is more virulent, but is better contained via mandatory quarantines.
https://academic.oup.com/nsr/advance-article/doi/10.1093/nsr/nwaa036/5775463

Failure to impose quarantines will likely result in to proliferation of the “L” form of the “C” haplotype of SARS CoV-2. Countries where government medical officials must clear their statements with uninformed political hacks face a more pronounced impact from this outbreak. The proper approach is for politicians to have to clear their blather with health professionals...

Posted by: krollchem | Mar 6 2020 20:26 utc | 16

Thanks b for measured reporting.
Sounds like the nation with undrinkable lead laced water in 2000 cities and C8 pollution elsewhere is in for a big test. I trust it destroys the top 1% only. Good luck to all.

It would be an irony if the nation that might have originated the virus finds its status quo inverted.

Posted by: uncle tungsten | Mar 6 2020 20:28 utc | 17

Jen @12--

As the articles I linked @7 suggest, the Outlaw US Empire doesn't give a damn about how many die. It's such a repetitious and longstanding policy point that it no longer appears in the Grand Establishment Narrative. Instead, we're treated to articles touting the necessity and beneficence of those deaths and the Don't Worry; Be Happy mantra regarding the lack of capable health care facilities and insurance that's meaningful. Just ask any wealthy Texan and they'll tell you Death is good business--each cremation generates about $1K and the public's never told how many are actually dying. To a very large extent, death's been made invisible within the Outlaw US Empire. People driving cars see moving aside to let an ambulance go by as a hindrance, an inconvenience they shouldn't have to accommodate. Just as with its Death Squad Foreign Legions, what complaining do you see? None. BigLie Media makes certain it's all swept under the rug. The elite don't give a shit--they're looking forward to robotics and AI. They believe they can survive the Zombie Plague they want to see erupt. Maybe we'll all get lucky and Biden will get it and die but Sanders won't.

Posted by: karlof1 | Mar 6 2020 20:32 utc | 18

CLOSE THE SCHOOLS!

b's analysis and recommendation to close schools makes a great deal of sense. Kudos b!

You've got to cut down on the spread, and those who are asymptomatic (children and young adults) are the prime vectors to everyone else.

But it seems clear that TPTB are 'OK' with killing a large number of elderly people.

!!

Posted by: Jackrabbit | Mar 6 2020 20:43 utc | 19

True horror story about Coronavirus at a Kirkland, WA nursing home. First article I read had 39 infected and ten dead. If anybody claims the west is better prepared and less secretive than China about this epidemic then they are bullshitting. Both Trump and Johnson are prime bullshitters so I'm sorry to say I reckon the US and UK are well and truly fucked.

Posted by: Ghost Ship | Mar 6 2020 21:11 utc | 20

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krollchem @16--

Thanks for those links! The *GlobalResearch* article relating the educated guess that the virus originated inside Outlaw US Empire was very good. Given the great primitiveness of what stands for a healthcare system within the Empire, the numerous Asian reports that it began here I don't doubt at all.

Posted by: karlof1 | Mar 6 2020 21:15 utc | 21

Read the Global Research article a few days ago and it’s conclusions are totally plausible.

Extremely curious when the virus variety in Iran happens to be 3-4 times more deadly and it has been infecting the top echelon of the government with no end in site. Furthermore, American pundits and government official praising the virus to accomplish what economic pressure has not been able to achieve. That is wicked.

And now Israel claims to have a vaccine within two months. Any vaccine development needs at least 12-18 months of testing and research. That means they had a head start long ago.

Is this the last push to save the dollar without a global conflict?

Truly evil times we live in.

Posted by: Alpi | Mar 6 2020 21:33 utc | 22

@ NemesisCalling 13; 14

No China Bashing? Really. See my link @ 6. The slants by AP and Reuters dutifully repeated by their subscribers. And a reminder; Zerohedge lost its Twitter account.

Only today, once again, the Globaltimes, CN editorial asks, "Show us some compassion."

Grab this: **Fox host hits new low on politicizing disease**
LINK

> Fox News host Jesse Watters blatantly asked the Chinese for "a formal apology" because "this coronavirus originated in China." His cohost asked, "What if the outbreak had started here [the US]?" Watters asserted that the epidemic started in China. He even stated in his show, "They are very hungry people. The Chinese communist government cannot feed the people, and they are desperate. This food is uncooked. It's unsafe, and that is why scientists believe that's where it originated." These remarks make him look like a hooligan.
>
> The Communist Party of China "cannot feed the people" so that Chinese have no choice but to eat "raw bats and snakes." Is this how a popular American host sees China? Watters' complete and utter nonsense on the TV show makes people wonder how distorted US public opinion is against China. It seems that if one scolds China, he does not need to beat his brains or use common sense at all; he can talk as tough as he wants of China without being held accountable.
>
> Imagine that a Chinese host demanded a formal apology from the US people on a TV show after the 2009 H1N1 flu spread to the world from the US, or after AIDS, a disease reportedly first tracked in North America, became a global epidemic. Let alone how the US and the international community would respond, could the Chinese public accept his performance? [.]

Posted by: Likklemore | Mar 6 2020 21:34 utc | 23

It looks as if b is drinking the Establishment Koolaid on this one.

Why do any special efforts need to be made for a virus with a case fatality rate only just north of the flu and an infection rate, even in Wuhan of less than 1%? The flu will kill many more people this year.

And that's not even getting into the psyop aspect involved in basic questions of how this 'new' virus was even identified. Do we just trust the PTB on this? Why?

Have you read John Rappoport or OffGuardian's analyses? At least they are trying to bring some sense to bear. Sadly, b, you are way off base on this one

Posted by: MLS | Mar 6 2020 21:46 utc | 24

In related economic news, the coronavirus has severely cut demand for oil, the current production quota agreement between OPEC and Russia expires on April 1st. OPEC decided 1.5 million barrels a day of production needs to be cuts of which Russia must cut the most, OPEC said Russia must take this deal or else their is no deal. Today Russia said fine no deal, everyone can pump as much oil as they like come April 1st, and the price of oil instantly crashed at the moment it's down 9.3% for the day.

Most USA shale producers debt/loans are reviewed and adjusted or renewed twice a year. This takes place in APRIL and OCTOBER. And the Shale fracking industry was slowly going belly up even before the coronavirus when oil was $60 a barrel. When the US oil production goes offline it will set up a future spike in the market down the road, maybe by November.

https://seekingalpha.com/article/4320190-abrupt-reversal-of-shale-oils-fortunes-points-to-radical-reset-of-oil-prices

Posted by: Gregory P | Mar 6 2020 21:53 utc | 25

All the posts from @16 to 21 especially all of Karlofi's posts
It's time to get angry.
It's going to be survival of the fittest, the catch is 'first define survival of the fittest'
People in denial are going to suffer,
Trump gullible voters will be thrown under the bus, the same as freandly rebels.
The mortality rate does not take into account 'collateral damage' use your imagination on that. It's bad real bad.
Someone pressed the 'BIO button' (Mark2 copy right)
Look after you and yours, stock pile food, draw your money out the bank, they will limit withdraws any time now.
Keep two steps ahead.
Face the horrible reality (a bit like dealing with cancer.
But other than that I'm not optimistic!

Posted by: Mark2 | Mar 6 2020 22:01 utc | 26

No vaccine as of yet and a death rate considerably higher than common flu noted early on, meaning it would likely be considerably higher in the coming months. It is serious, anic is of course involved when people are dying and there is laid-back attitude to it by many pundits, governments that do just that - lay back and call for no panic. They, are of course well protected in case of epidemic, the common people they are talking to are not.

Posted by: Zanon | Mar 6 2020 22:05 utc | 27

Please add - - - Thank you to those comments

Posted by: Mark2 | Mar 6 2020 22:06 utc | 28

@b For South Korea, it doesn't change the argument, but for correctness, infection ratio is ten times lower: 6693/51430000 = 0.014%

Posted by: pch | Mar 6 2020 22:12 utc | 29

If only the US heed **WHO, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General,** repeated warning and prepared for the Covid-19 we may avoid or possibly overcome the pandemic. Instead Trump and Pelosi continue infighting and anti-China bashing.

MAGA Too late baby, even if Congress passed bipartisan a $trillion Covid-19 bills. Covid-19 is here, China now shutting its door preventing import of foreign's Coronavirus. China is sending team of expert including medical supplies to help the Iranians...

Do I dun give a shit if **"Things Get Interesting - Will Trump Be Forced To Postpone The Election?**

https://www.zerohedge.com/political/things-get-interesting-will-trump-be-forced-postpone-election

Posted by: JC | Mar 6 2020 22:12 utc | 30

If schools are closed that should greatly reduce the number of people who would contract the virus but not die from it. But it would not greatly reduce the number of cases of people for whom it would be fatal -- elderly in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and hospitals. That would make the death *rate* increase.

Officials who advise people to stockpile are acting tremendously irresponsibly. Stockpiling can devastate any economy. If you would like to have some idea of what life is like in places where U.S. sanctions have created shortages then encourage stockpiling.

Remember that health officials and quoted public health academics all over the world are terrified of underreacting. It's not just the human cost of such a prospect but also the fact that their heads would be in a noose. By overreacting, no matter what happens they can say they did what they could, and if a huge epidemic doesn't pan out then also they could say, even if it's false, that their efforts were the reason. They pay no penalty for the consequences of overreacting, but the leaders of government do. It's the presidents', prime ministers' etc. responsibility to put things in perspective and try to maintain calm.

Another very important fact that's not being widely publicized is that this virus, like the flu, will die out in the spring.

https://www.accuweather.com/en/health-wellness/coronavirus-expert-says-the-virus-will-burn-itself-out-in-about-6-months/679415

Posted by: Spike | Mar 6 2020 22:15 utc | 31

@b
For South Korea, it doesn't change the argument, but for correctness, infection ratio is ten times lower: 6693/51430000 = 0.014%

And 0.00615% for mainland China, which is much better since they are well past the peak.

Posted by: pch | Mar 6 2020 22:18 utc | 32

Posted by: Zanon | Mar 6 2020 22:05 utc | 27

Latest China most likely test 5 drugs or antivirus before end of April. China is far ahead of any nations.

Coronavirus: vaccines ‘on track for emergency use’ in April
https://www.scmp.com/news/china/society/article/3073850/coronavirus-no-n

Posted by: JC | Mar 6 2020 22:19 utc | 33

>USA shale producers

Soon people won't have to worry much about damage from new wells. Instead they will have to worry about existing-and-soon-to-be-abandoned wells. This is already a huge problem in Alberta, where "it’s estimated that more than **155,000** Alberta energy wells have no economic potential and will eventually require reclamation".

But not to worry. It will only cost **$47 Billion** for Alberta to clean up the mess.

No surprise that it is worse in the US. I couldn't quickly find a cost estimate.

> Nobody knows how many orphan and abandoned drilling sites litter farms, forests and backyards nationwide. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates there are more than a million of them. Unplugged wells can leak methane, an explosive gas, into neighborhoods and leach toxins into groundwater.

Why “orphan” oil and gas wells are a growing problem for states

Posted by: Trailer Trash | Mar 6 2020 22:22 utc | 34

@ Jen (12)

"If the White House failed to recognise a major health crisis already simmering on its own doorstep, what hope can be held for when the coronavirus epidemic starts sweeping through the inland US, taking out the elderly, the poor and the homeless?"

I doubt that our glorious leaders in the US or UK will find much they don't like in that scenario.

Posted by: MarkU | Mar 6 2020 22:24 utc | 35

Spike @ 31
Good luck with that one, your going to need it !

Posted by: Mark2 | Mar 6 2020 22:35 utc | 36

JC @ 9; Jen @ 12

The focus has been to keep the Dow green and the pork flowing.

David Stockman sees the real impact of COVID-19 as deforming American society: *Stockman is former director of OMB under president Reagan*

The past 30 years of false prosperity is over. A somber read.

> The coronavirus is now exposing a far more deadly disease: Namely, the poisonous brew of easy money, cheap debt, sweeping financialization and unbridled speculation that has been injected into the American economy by the Fed and Washington politicians.[.]
>
> It has also left the American economy exceedingly vulnerable to external shocks. That’s because 80% of households have no appreciable rainy day funds and businesses have hollowed out their balance sheets and artificially extended their supply chains to the four corners of the earth in order to goose short-run profits and share prices.
>
> However, this unprecedented fragility is becoming evident as public health authorities around the world aggressively move to contain the Covid-19 contagion. This will mean separating workers from their workplaces, consumers from the malls, diners from the restaurants, travelers from the airlines, hotels and resorts and much more like and similar disruptions to the supply-side of the economy.
>
> In short, the world’s supply chains are buckling and freezing-up, thereby causing production and incomes to fall abruptly. In turn, shrunken incomes and cash flows will pull the legs out from under the edifice of debt and speculation that has been piled atop the American economy.

> So both a renewed financial and economic crisis and an abrupt change of course lie dead ahead. The 30-year era of False Prosperity is over. [.]
>
> The decade of reckoning that lies ahead is rooted first and foremost in the fecklessly incurred mega-debts of the private and public sectors alike. Together they have soared to the staggering sum of $75 trillion.[.]
>
> Yet the proceeds from these massive borrowings were not used to invest and provide for tomorrow, but to live high on the hog today. After three decades of such artificial debt-fueled “prosperity”, the very warp and woof of American society has been deformed.[.]
>
> *More*

debt bubble balloon meets pin.

Posted by: Likklemore | Mar 6 2020 22:36 utc | 37

They will not contain the epidemic

Take a look to the numbers of Italy to have a taste of what is happening outside China, supposed with less censorship:

ITALY
Total Nº cases 4.636
Nº Deaths 197
Rate deaths/total cases **4,25%**
Nº recovered 523
Nº Serious-critical condition 462
Rate serious-crit/total 9,97%
Rate recovered/total **11,28%**
Rate serious-crit/active cases 11,23%
Rate deaths/(deaths+recovered) **27,36%**

You can see that the Fatality Rate is 4,25%, higher than in China and globally, but YOU HAVE ONLY 11,3% OF PEOPLE RECOVERED , that means you do not have an outcome yet for the rest.
If you consider the ratio deaths compare with the cases that have an outcome (recovered + dead), we have a fatality rate of 27,36%, in the case of China is 6% (but this could be false).

When we now analyze the fatality rate of the 1918 Spanish Flu we analyze with all the people or recovered or dead, all have an outcome, and that is the only way to know the REAL fatality rate of an epidemic.

So I do not know the total fatality ratio of this epidemic, but seems is quite high, and it seems it affects the white people (in North Italy) in similar ways as in Asia.

This is NOT a "normal flu", and this virus has many new and fantastic features, it affects strongly the CNS (Central Nervous System):

https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/jmv.25728

Good luck

Posted by: DFC | Mar 6 2020 22:40 utc | 38

Now we can see the numbers in the case of South Korea, another developed country with a modern health care system and after making more than 150.000 corona tests:

SOUTH KOREA
Total Nº cases 6.593
Nº Deaths 43
Rate deaths/total cases **0,65%**
Nº recovered 135
Nº Serious-critical condition 52
Rate serious-crit/total 0,79%
Rate recovered/total **2,05%**
Rate serious-crit/active cases 0,81%
Rate deaths/(deaths+recovered) **24,16%**

In the case of SK the fatality rate is very low, only 0,65%, but ALSO IS VERY LOW THE RECOVERED RATE, only 2,05% of people infected have recovered from the disease so far, so the number of case with an outcome is very low, but the fatality rate based on deaths divided by deaths+ recovered (cases with an outcome) is 24,16%, similar to that of the Italy, So the fatality rate in the cases with an outcome is very high still (> 20%). And now we know there are re-infection cases and people dying after "recovered" at least in China....

We have to expect and see, the epidemic is starting to taking off but it seems quite different to a normal flu

Posted by: DFC | Mar 6 2020 22:44 utc | 39

US Dear Leaders face difficult decisions regarding mass closures of everything. The poor social infrastructure can't handle major disruptions. Closing schools could maybe cause more harm than staying open, since many students depend on going to school just to get two meals. Some places even have special summer programs so kids can eat all year round.

In addition, without public school babysitters many families would be f*cked but good. There is nobody to look after kids while the parent(s) are struggling to make a living. It is just as bad if the kids get sick - who will stay home and take care of them?

Closing schools would also devastate school finances since many revenue sources pay based on number of bums-in-seats. If the bums-in-seats drops to zero...

Hourly workers like bus drivers and custodians and food service workers would be laid off. Some might qualify for unemployment compensation, many others would not. Lots of economic devastation among those folks in any case.

The medical consequences may get bad, but for the overall economy already stretched to the limit, mass closures will be a catastrophe.

Posted by: Trailer Trash | Mar 6 2020 22:48 utc | 40

Its a big money grab. Billions and billions have already been handed out. Big Pharma stands to make a killing with a new vaccine down the road.

H1N1 fizzled out. Came nowhere near the doomsday predictions. As did SARS, MERS, Zika, Ebola which led to billions and billion spent on research not just for vaccines but to modify these viruses to be more deadly in order to understand them so as to make better vaccines. You can see the danger, those who create these viruses , or tests confirming them, stand to benefit from them

Lets take a closer look at H1N1. In July 2009 the WHO Director General predicted that: “as many as 2 billion people could become infected over the next two years — nearly one-third of the world population.” It was a multibillion bonanza for Big Pharma. Margaret Chan reported “Vaccine makers could produce 4.9 billion pandemic flu shots per year in the best-case scenario”

The media went into high gear . Obama jumps on board saying “Swine flu could strike up to 40 percent of Americans over the next two years and as many as several hundred thousand could die if a vaccine campaign and other measures aren’t successful.” The U.S. expected to have 160 million doses of swine flu vaccine available sometime in October”

Some of the tricks used will probably be repeated. In 2009 on July 24, following the WHO decision to shift from quantitative to qualitative assessments and not to require governments to ascertain the data through lab testing, the CDC announced that it had discontinued the process of data collection by testing . From April 15, 2009 to July 24, 2009, states reported a total of 43,771 confirmed and probable cases of novel influenza A (H1N1) infection. Of these cases reported, 5,011 people were hospitalized and 302 people died. During this period 7,500 people per day from all causes died. In a regular flu season over 30,000 die from flu (CDC model estimates). On July 24, 2009, confirmed and probable case counts were discontinued. CDC announced that it had developed a model “to to determine the true number of novel H1N1 flu cases in the United States”.

To counter the underwhelming numbers obtained by testing. CDC claimed that the data sent to them by the states was “underestimated”. Its new model then hiked up these figures of “unconfirmed” cases, many of which are cases of seasonal influenza and then pronounced more than one million people became ill with novel H1N1 flu between April and June 2009 in the United States. The model was then used to predict the spread of swine flu and to justify a national health emergency. “

This is a process of statistical manipulation (fraud), and no doubt we are seeing some of that now and will no doubt see a replay of 2009.

As we know now, the pandemic never happened. Millions of doses of swine flu vaccine had been ordered by national governments from Big Pharma. Millions of vaccine doses were subsequently destroyed. Lots of profits made though. For those who did get shots there were many adverse effects which were underreported, but Big Pharma has no liability for vaccines.

Back to the present. Fortunately they are smart enough not to unleash anything too deadly. After all,the elites dont want to get sick and are smart enough not to trust rushed to market vaccines. Something that accelerates the demise of rapidly aging populations is just the thing. Death rates in the under 50 crowd are only 0.3% and that is likely overstated by a factor of 10 since most mild cases are not tested. In the elderly and sick, we see rates in the double digits, similar to ordinary flu

The US and China have 7500 and 25000 deaths per day, for COVID-19 in 3 months there are fewer than 3000 deaths. Yet its panic. You ask me there is a dumb virus going around and its been around for at least 40 years. Picking up steam though.

Posted by: Pft | Mar 6 2020 22:50 utc | 41

Now the statistics of China:

CHINA

Total Nº cases 80.576
Nº Deaths 3.042
Ratio deaths/total cases **3,78%**
Nº recovered 53.929
Nº Serious-critical condition 5.737
Ratio serious-crit/total 7,12%
Ratio recovered/total **66,93%**
Ratio serious-crit/active cases 21,53%
Ratio deaths/(deaths+recovered) **5,34%**

The ratio deaths/(deaths + recovered), fatalities in those who have an outcome, is 5,3%, and the percentage of recovered is high compared to other countries like Italy and SK, so this seems to be more close the final fatality of the epidemic; but a lot of people say that China simply conceal many case of people dying in their homes after the hospital were overwhelmed.

Globally the reported fatality rate is 3,4%, but I think this could increase, and the other question is if the western countries will decree quarantines for the 60% of their population and impose this by force is required, as China did, probably the percentage of people infected in the western countries will be higher

Posted by: DFC | Mar 6 2020 22:55 utc | 42

"It looks as if b is drinking the Establishment Koolaid on this one.
Why do any special efforts need to be made for a virus...
Sadly, b, you are way off base on this one"

Posted by: MLS | Mar 6 2020 21:46 utc | 24

....

Hey MLS- how about fuck off? And why attack B?

The virus appears to be real. If part of this is a psy-op, would that not also link to a higher probability that it could be bio-engineered? Released intentionally? Another 9/11-esque? Cover for an Western Economy in collapse? Myriad possibilities.

I'm in Seattle, it's no joke around here. I may have had it myself which I posted about here recently. Comparing this to people dying from car accidents or "normal" flu every year is retarded. This will (and already has) have profound impact on local and international economies- ie peoples lives dumbass.

I've seen enough humans living in tents, cars and streets around here to make my stomach turn. The impact from this may put many more in dire scenarios that do not even get the flu. Certainly the potential implications of where this came from and how far it will go should at least raise eyebrows from anyone with a shred of critical thinking and compassion.

Posted by: CitizenX | Mar 6 2020 22:55 utc | 43

Spike @31:

> [Closing schools] ... *would not greatly reduce the number of cases of people for whom it would be fatal*

Wrong.

People die in greater numbers when the healthcare system is overwhelmed. Those seriously affected need intensive care and respirators. It that is not available, the chances of death are much higher.

Closing schools for a short period makes a great deal of sense.

!!

Posted by: Jackrabbit | Mar 6 2020 23:05 utc | 44

Consistently overlooked in all this is that NO CHINESE GOVERNMENT FIGURES HAVE EVER BEEN INDEPENDENTLY VERIFIED AND THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT (LIKE EVERY OTHER GOVERNMENT) HAS A LONG HISTORY OF DOCTORING UP THE FIGURES TO CAST ITSELF IN THE MOST ADVANTAGEOUS LIGHT POSSIBLE.

I.F. Stone repeatedly hammered: "All governments lie."

Why should China's government suddenly have become honest?

Posted by: RJPJR | Mar 6 2020 23:13 utc | 45

I heard a Wall Street expert today say on CNBC that, in some US states, if an employer demands or permits a sick employee to be at work, any other workers who contract the disease can get worker's comp. The employer is liable.

Apparently there's also an uptick in PC/laptop sales for those working from home.

Posted by: daffyDuct | Mar 6 2020 23:16 utc | 46

VP Pence said: 21 coronavirus cases confirmed aboard cruise ship docked off California as Trump mulls whether to let passengers disembark ....19 of the new patients were crew members, and that one test was “inconclusive.”

so 19 are crew members and light-headed Trump is debating if passengers should disembark !!! Crew members down, all hands not on deck, who takes care of the feeding?

Posted by: Likklemore | Mar 6 2020 23:19 utc | 47

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not relating to Corona but...Y.N.M.S @ twitter says shooting in Riyad and scary situation..

https://twitter.com/ynms79797979

Anybody has more info?

Posted by: ARN | Mar 6 2020 23:20 utc | 48

Speaking of CNBC, Rick Santelli who "launched the Tea Party" years ago though it prudent to

"After a volatile day of trading on Wall Street Thursday precipitated by ongoing fears of the economic effects of the global coronavirus outbreak, CNBC analyst Rick Santelli suggested it would be better to infect the world population with the disease all at once to help stock prices. "

https://www.commondreams.org/news/2020/03/06/your-brain-capitalism-cnbc-market-analyst-rick-santelli-calls-infecting-global

Posted by: daffyDuct | Mar 6 2020 23:25 utc | 49

Posted by: DFC | Mar 6 2020 22:40 utc | 38

It is not correct to compare dead/recovered numbers between different countries. This rate naturally evolves according to the stage of the epidemic.
Isn't it obvious that in a increasing epidemic, death are over represented on recovered, because dying is faster than recovering (so that recovering patients come from an older cohort, which is smaller).
Here is the demonstrating time curve:
https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/coronavirus-cases/#case-outcome
It's the global curve, That is, it's mainly the Chinese curve up to now.

Posted by: Parisian Guy | Mar 6 2020 23:58 utc | 50

Corona Virus article from Slate

https://slate.com/technology/2020/03/coronavirus-mortality-rate-lower-than-we-think.html

Author points out that the Diamond Princess cruise ship that had been quarantined in Japan was a good laboratory for examining the effects of the virus.

Main Points of that portion of the article:

3700+ passengers and crew
700+ infections about half the infections were asymptomatic
6 deaths
All deaths occurred in people over 70.

One of his general points being that the disease might well be mild to moderate for younger people, but could be very serious for the elderly and those with other medical conditions.

Posted by: Lone Plateau | Mar 7 2020 0:06 utc | 51

When Trump was first elected I figured it was a 1 term deal. After all, why does a billionaire want to waste all of his twighlight years as President for any longer. But the Dems failed to run anyone that could relieve him from duty. What to do? Well Covid-19. Knowing how fearful Americans are, not taking a overhyped health care crisis seriously is political suicide. Yet he chooses to do so. If politicians know nothing they know the people demand “to be kept safe”. Yet Trump seems oblivious, opening himself up to defeat.

Now maybe he changes his tune, and is just waiting until fear builds up to its maximum before declaring martial law and treating citizens with colds , especially those who dare sneeze as terrorists. Sending out wave upon wave of drones who check peoples temperature with IR cameras and use facial identification to track them. Mandatory vaccinations with health tracking nanobots and digital ID. Trump then declares himself King and power passes on to Ivanka when he goes to paradise with his pal Epstein. Americas first royalty family made possible by a corona (crown) virus. Oh joy.

The difference between being King and President is no more elections and power stays in the family. Being King probably carry's more of an attraction than being a lame duck 2nd term President.

Otherwise I guess people might vote for Biden if they get scared enough, and if they get the chance to vote. Stay tuned though.

Posted by: Pft | Mar 7 2020 0:07 utc | 52

We dont have a government in the US in the sense of people who manage policy and services and budgets and laws and such. At this point its pretty much every man woman child for themselves. We know how those people stuck on cruise ship feel.

And of whom Trump said (reportedly):
"he wanted the passengers to remain on the ship because he doesn't want to see the total US case numbers 'double' as soon as it docks"

Posted by: jared | Mar 7 2020 0:09 utc | 53

@23 likkelmore

I should qualify it more.

No one of import is paying attention to the Geopolitcal implications of this disease. They are mostly looking at it from a survivalist standpoint, i.e. what to do, how to prevent, etc.

That one or two hosts on a network are pointing fingers tells me nothing of the broad consensus of the media or even if that particular media outlet, Foxnews.

As I mentioned above, Trump made it a point to compliment President Xi and China's effort on tackling it. Foxnews is also the only media outlet that is more of less proTrump. How do reconcile that?

Furthermore, the most highly rated show on Fox, Tucker Carlson is vehemently anti-imperialist and consistently hurls insults at gay assholes such as Lindsey Graham. Again...how do reconcile the fact that Fox also allows a pro-war guy like Brian Kilmeade to pollute the air from the same network?

There is no coordinated attack on China's reputation. What you are hearing is the last vestiges of neocon and neolibs grasping at straws and trying to drag China through the mud. No one is listening, just as no one really cares about CNN or MSNBC (ironic, though, that Foxnews is now indeed the most "fair and balanced" of the major networks) or any political trifles.

I did hear a few stories such as Dr.s in China who were being silenced wrt the effects of the virus. Why is this unreasonable to assume that it contains a semblance of truth? China is very guarded wrt its freedoms of information. Everyone knows this and it ain't a question.

But I digress. Most people in the U.S. are prepping not fingering a culprit.

Posted by: NemesisCalling | Mar 7 2020 0:11 utc | 54

@spike 31
Another very important fact

Wait a minute! You know that this opinion/prediction from an expert is not a fact. Isn't it?

Posted by: Parisian Guy | Mar 7 2020 0:22 utc | 55

Snip:
The average age of deceased and positive patients in Covid-2019 is 81 years, mostly men. They, in more than two thirds of cases, have three or more pre-existing pathologies.
This was confirmed by an analysis conducted by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità on 105 Italian patients who died up to 4 March.
...
The average age of the patients examined is 81 years, about 20 years higher than that of the patients who contracted the infection. There are 28 women (26.7%).

According to ISS data, 42.2% of the deaths are in the age group between 80 and 89 years. 32.4% were between 70 and 79, while 8.4% between 60 and 69, 2.8% between 50 and 59 and 14.1% over 90 years.
end Snip:
With luck Congress will be cleaned out of old world thinking, and replaced with new world thinking, (alas, same as old world thinking as it is controlled by the same thought group. One lives in hope of change for the better.

Posted by: KamNam | Mar 7 2020 0:23 utc | 56

Whooping cough does not exhibit symptoms often in carriers, either. And yet people still foolishly advise the vaccine so as to prevent spread, even though the vaccine does not prevent carriers.

Will the covid-19 vaccine only obscure symptoms, as well? Will it leave the elderly at heightened risk being close to their grandchildren who do not exhibit symptoms yet are clandestinely passing the virus to them?

Would anyone acknowledge the biomedical ethical ramifications of the vaccine, then? Survival of the fittest?

Current iterations of the Flu Shot when administered to recipients who then catch the flu exhibit 6.5x the virulent fine aerosol as those who do not get the Flu Shot. Will the Covid-19 vaccine also have this fatal flaw which the CDC as of yet has not properly warned the public about when it comes to the seasonal flu shot?

...

In any case...

The solution: keep children away from elderly.

Don't close the fucking schools!

Posted by: NemesisCalling | Mar 7 2020 0:23 utc | 57

@Nemesia calling 54

As I mentioned above, Trump made it a point to compliment President Xi and China's effort on tackling it.
That's right. I saw it too. Nevertheless, what you hear from Trump tells you nothing about what Trump actually thinks. It's only relevant to what Trump needs to claim and pretend at this moment.
When Trump complimented Xi, that was a few days ago.
Tomorrow Trump and/or his administration will strongly need a scapegoat.
Have you heard Pompeo today? "We are unprepared because of the faults of the Chinese". That's only the beginning of the scapegoating.

Posted by: Parisian Guy | Mar 7 2020 0:40 utc | 58

Another thought has just come to me. The age of the Media Barons all seem to be in the high to highest end of the fatality spectrum. Wonder if it is a coincidence we are having such a panic media attack, free on facts yet huge on speculation and shunting blame to all and sundry. Just a thought

Posted by: KamNam | Mar 7 2020 0:42 utc | 59

Could it be ncov19 is no worse than the common cold, and what we are experiencing is the power of the media as it follows the order to create a world wide panic designed to prop up calls for a 1 world government. Deaths recorded are in the 80+ age range with at least 3 pre-existing conditions. The public can't get enough of this soap opera.

Posted by: Joetv | Mar 7 2020 0:46 utc | 60

No matter how vague the epidemic may be, the elites are making certain the consequences are real. I've just gotten off the phone to my youngest daughter who is in the last semester of her masters at UQ. She isn't sure which part of the uni's stupid calls she dislikes more, the fact that at present because according to the august institution, there are insufficient local students to warrant 'live' lectures & tutorials so they are all being held online, or the fact that the Uni is so desperate to get all its overseas students into Australia that they are offering all students coming from nations whose entry is currently prohibited eg Italy, Iran & China, a $7000 one off grant so they can re-route the trip through a nation which Oz hasn't yet barred from entry. Those students have begun arriving and no surprise some are presenting with COVID -19.

Worse still is that basics like toilet rolls are currently unobtainable, because when the scare first hit the local sociopaths went out and bought 20 or 30 18 roll packs to hoard. The supermarkets happily collected the cash without any attempt at rationing, so now the normal citizens are without.
Strange types hoarders, of course they are a direct result of neoliberalism, back even 20 years ago in Aotearoa & Oz even if some people had had the desire to hoard most would not have, lest they be abused or assaulted by the 'normals'. Now selfishness is the new normal the critics are the ones likely to be subjected to a posse.

Apparently pasta has become unobtainable in Oz. My son is about to head to Oz to stay with his sister which is why she called, I have bought a selection of pastas at the supermarket (dry spagetti noodles, fresh gnocchi & fettucine) and the crazy thing is they are all made in Australia. Madness.
We have had some hoarders in Aotearoa too, my pharmacist told me he had no face masks because really early on in this scare (January) a chinese couple he had never seen before came in and bought every face mask they had, Dingbat pharmacist didn't realise he would not be able to get any more which is what has happened.

Maybe one positive will be that people will relearn community spiritedness, but I'm not holding my breath, 'cos it is equally likely they will go full on dog eat dog.

My daughter's bloke who has been working managing a couple of bars for one of the biggest brewing corporations in the world has discovered the pitfalls of the gig economy. All employees including managers are 'casual workers'. Tourists have stopped touring so the bars have been closed & he has been laid off.
The arseholes are already making sure all shit runs downhill.
At least in Oz people get the dole, but what will happen in countries which eschew social support on the grounds it is 'charity'? More looting which would be ok if it were the arseholes who got robbed but the arseholes hire rentacops etc, so it is other poor people who will wear the brunt of an uptick in possessing others' goods by night.

Posted by: A User | Mar 7 2020 0:48 utc | 61

ARN@48

MbS has indeed arrested at least five senior Saudi Princes, including the King’s brother. Sounds like the King of Saudi Arabia is in bad shape (virus?). Meanwhile, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed (MbZ) has been infected with the deadly coronavirus according to Prominent Emirati human rights activist and whistleblower Abdullah al-Taweel.

In addition, “According to al-Watan newspaper, the UAE Ministry of Education decided on Tuesday evening to suspend studying in all schools and public and private higher education institutions at the state level starting next Sunday, for a period of four weeks.”

https://www.uprising.today/reports-state-abu-dhabi-crown-prince-has-contracted-corona-virus/

Posted by: Krollchem | Mar 7 2020 0:49 utc | 62

CGTN **Liu Xin** *who should apologize?*

https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-03-06/Who-should-really-apologize--ODV3KvmEeY/index.html

Posted by: JC | Mar 7 2020 0:59 utc | 63

ATN Apli @22

Raw figures for Italy and Iran at 14.00 GMT Friday Mar 6
Italy Infected 4636 Deaths 197 Recovered 523
Iran Infected 4747 Deaths 124 Recovered 913

Remember Iran is under very strict Sanctions from USA et al. not helping their situation. Death rate is mostly those over 50 ramping up each decade over the 60 mark. (This get s rid of old farts like me easier and faster :-)) As for Israel, take that with a pinch of salt they love to brag. I am not denying we live with truly evil people pulling strings for profit. Cheers

Posted by: KamNam | Mar 7 2020 1:03 utc | 64

Nemesis is not credible

He contradicts himself all the time!

@13: ***... I have seen very very little China-bashing wrt Corona.***

@54: *I did hear a few stories such as Dr.s in China who were being silenced wrt the effects of the virus.*

<> <> <> <> <>

@54: ***There is no coordinated attack on China's reputation.***

@54 (the next sentence!): *What you are hearing is the last vestiges of neocon and neolibs ... trying to drag China through the mud...*

<> <> <> <> <> <>

@14: ***CDC is beyond questioning or doubt wrt prevention of infectious disease***

@57: ... *people still foolishly advise the*[Whopping Cough] vaccine so as to prevent spread

CDC: CDC recommends whooping cough vaccination for all babies and children, preteens and teens, and pregnant women. Adults who have never received a dose of Tdap should also get vaccinated ...

!!

Posted by: Jackrabbit | Mar 7 2020 1:06 utc | 65

Posted by: Parisian Guy | Mar 7 2020 0:40 utc | 58

Well said! "*Tomorrow Trump and/or his administration will strongly need a scapegoat. Have you heard Pompeo today? "We are unprepared because of the faults of the Chinese". That's only the beginning of the scapegoating.*"

.....and blaming Chinese cheating and steals American Covin-19

Posted by: JC | Mar 7 2020 1:09 utc | 66

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more scapegoating. The WSJ blames the virus and effects on global economy on the Chinese government. (prep regime-change music)

Wall Street Journal:

> How It All Started: China’s Early Coronavirus Missteps
>
> China’s errors, dating back to the very first patients, were compounded by political leaders who dragged their feet to inform the public of the risks and to take decisive control measures. The result is an epidemic that has gripped the global economy.

Posted by: occupatio | Mar 7 2020 1:15 utc | 67

The coming economic fallout from Coronavirus will test the advice I've given people over the years about where to work within the overall economy: Make certain you're on the "Needs" side of the economy, not the "Discretionary" side. As when the shit hits the fan, needs will always be needed while discretionary demand fades to zero. Frackers are already using euphemisms to cover their massive Ponzi Scheme failure, while the entire Just-In-Time Neoliberal business model gets ready to collapse. The massive debt bomb created by the Fed is close to imploding. The great irony of it all stems from the revelation that the virus likely originated within the Outlaw US Empire--the parasitic worm is close to entering the host's brain.

Posted by: karlof1 | Mar 7 2020 1:20 utc | 68

The MeMe to this opens up a lot of doors for thought and fiction or is it just coincidence?

Election Year Viruses: 2004 Sars, 2008 Avian, 2010 Swine, 2012 Mers, 2014 Ebola, 2016 Zika, 2018 Ebola, 2020 Corona,

I hate coincidence.

Posted by: KamNam | Mar 7 2020 1:21 utc | 69

JC & occupation @66 & 67--

Typical projection as the publicly available evidence for the virus's origination becomes clearer that it emerged from within the Outlaw US Empire just as most previous specialized strains of flu. The great irony of Occupied Palestine closing its borders to people from the Empire and announcement of AIPAC Conference attendees exposure almost is enough to make one think a capricious god does exist.

Posted by: karlof1 | Mar 7 2020 1:26 utc | 70

As I predicted, South Korea failed in containing the virus.

The only reason the capitalist countries are registering less infected and less dead is because they simply don't have the means China has of testing and reporting every case and every death. Both the death rate and number of infected are certainly much higher - and will only grow.

And this should be a wake up call for Iran: abandon the failed model of theocracy, and embrace once and for all, socialism. Otherwise, the long battle against the USA is lost.

Posted by: vk | Mar 7 2020 1:34 utc | 71

Here's one last article describing how Trump's behavior is setting him up to make GW Bush's Katrina failure seem a success by comparison.

Yeah sure, it's the Land of The Free--free to die thanks to the Free Market that privatizes the profits while socializing the costs.

Posted by: karlof1 | Mar 7 2020 1:42 utc | 72

@65 jr

No contradiction in anything you rebuked me on. You just can't read for shit.

"Very little" does not equal nothing. I saw a few stories on forlorn Dr.s in China who tried to get the word our but were silenced. The internet was not ablaze with these stories, as some here would like you to believe. The majority of news stories I have seen are related to incidences, advisories, closures, and prepping toilet paper. Lester Holt is not on in the evening telling the public it is all China's fault.

...

Yes, jr, there are still minority voices in American media saying we need to bomb Iran. Shocking, I know, but very little their impact, young Padawan. There are still people in the neolib biz that believe simply beating China at the hegemonic game is where America should be heading, instead of the protectionist, nationalist stance advocated by the musings of POTUS.

Again, you can't understand that the neos are essentially salesmen trying to convince the American public to let them have power. But can anyone safely say that They are doing a good job or that they are channeling the popular zeitgeist of this country. No...and that is why POTUS was elected, because he railed against the shitheads.

They are losing their grip.

...

I don't understand what you are saying wrt your last point about the CDC.

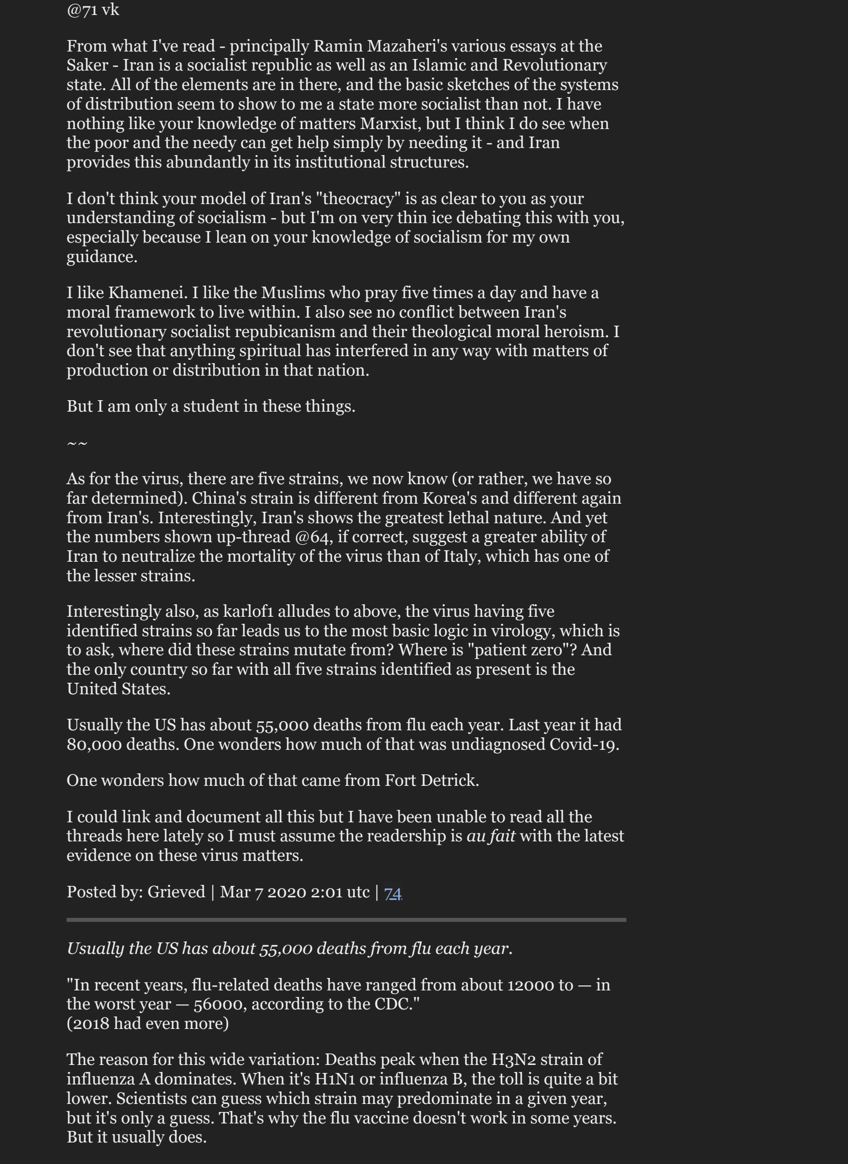
I Don't trust the CDC for the above mentioned reasons. They have not updated their advisories wrt the seasonal flu vaccine, and, to my knowledge, they have not admitted publically that the Pertussis vaccine does not prevent carriers, as it only masks symptoms. This has left parents thinking that the Pertussis infection in their children is only just a cough or common cold. That type of misinformation or non-information is absolutely deadly to the elderly.

The same goes with the seasonal flu vaccine where those with the vaccine who indeed get the Flu exhibit 6.5x the fine mist aerosol as those who get the Flu and have not been vaccinated. What this is saying essentially is that those who get the vaccine and then the Flu are 6.5x more virulent and contagious than those who do not get the vaccine.

That and the CDC-retirees go on to big lucrative careers in the vaccine producing industry.

Gee...very trustworthy.

Posted by: Nemesiscalling | Mar 7 2020 2:00 utc | 73



@71 vk

From what I've read - principally Ramin Mazaheri's various essays at the Saker - Iran is a socialist republic as well as an Islamic and Revolutionary state. All of the elements are in there, and the basic sketches of the systems of distribution seem to show to me a state more socialist than not. I have nothing like your knowledge of matters Marxist, but I think I do see when the poor and the needy can get help simply by needing it - and Iran provides this abundantly in its institutional structures.

I don't think your model of Iran's "theocracy" is as clear to you as your understanding of socialism - but I'm on very thin ice debating this with you, especially because I lean on your knowledge of socialism for my own guidance.

I like Khamenei. I like the Muslims who pray five times a day and have a moral framework to live within. I also see no conflict between Iran's revolutionary socialist repubicanism and their theological moral heroism. I don't see that anything spiritual has interfered in any way with matters of production or distribution in that nation.

But I am only a student in these things.

~~

As for the virus, there are five strains, we now know (or rather, we have so far determined). China's strain is different from Korea's and different again from Iran's. Interestingly, Iran's shows the greatest lethal nature. And yet the numbers shown up-thread @64, if correct, suggest a greater ability of Iran to neutralize the mortality of the virus than of Italy, which has one of the lesser strains.

Interestingly also, as karlof1 alludes to above, the virus having five identified strains so far leads us to the most basic logic in virology, which is to ask, where did these strains mutate from? Where is "patient zero"? And the only country so far with all five strains identified as present is the United States.

Usually the US has about 55,000 deaths from flu each year. Last year it had 80,000 deaths. One wonders how much of that was undiagnosed Covid-19.

One wonders how much of that came from Fort Detrick.

I could link and document all this but I have been unable to read all the threads here lately so I must assume the readership is *au fait* with the latest evidence on these virus matters.

Posted by: Grieved | Mar 7 2020 2:01 utc | 74

Usually the US has about 55,000 deaths from flu each year.

"In recent years, flu-related deaths have ranged from about 12000 to — in the worst year — 56000, according to the CDC."
(2018 had even more)

The reason for this wide variation: Deaths peak when the H3N2 strain of influenza A dominates. When it's H1N1 or influenza B, the toll is quite a bit lower. Scientists can guess which strain may predominate in a given year, but it's only a guess. That's why the flu vaccine doesn't work in some years. But it usually does.

Posted by: Duncan Idaho | Mar 7 2020 2:11 utc | 75

"Airlines get hammered as more and more people decline to travel"

This is the primary purpose of the coronavirus. In order to create neo-feudalism, the people who are in control (not Trump or other politicians) need to limit people's mobility. This is part of the plan for total world domination. The virus itself is not the issue. The issue is the fear that the virus generates, which translates into acceptance of lack of mobility and the shutdown of transportation modes for those who are not in control.

Posted by: JasonT | Mar 7 2020 2:17 utc | 76

@72 karlof1 - Greetings!

Yes. My personal fear is less to do with virology and more to do with the potential mismanagement of the situation by the US government and institutions, coupled with the current moral weakness of the national culture.

I think that many, many people in the US will not get tested for this virus, because they can't afford to get into the healthcare trap. Much of the epidemic will pass unrecorded. The official numbers will resemble the unemployment numbers: shining with a rosy light yet completely false.

One can only hope the US government doesn't try to emulate China, since unlike China it doesn't care one whit for its citizens. Spot checks at multiple locations could happen, thousands of new and poorly trained officials could be drafted into positions of control, there to act as insensitively and incompetently as TSA at airports and FEMA during Hurricane Katrina. And just as happened in New Orleans, those hapless individuals testing positive would be thrown together with others into inadequate facilities, and pretty much be left to die.

Citizens understanding this will keep their heads down, stay away from government programs, and use all methods of subterfuge to hide any symptoms they may contract. Even in the height of allergy season, it will not be acceptable to sneeze or cough, and lynching, after all, is not such a long ago memory.

In the end, lots of people may die, the dead will be called losers, and everyone will blame the Chinese. As is already happening.

~~

Another scenario is that it could all turn into a nothing burger, if the summer heat kills the virus for this season, and if the consumables come back on the shelves, and if the new virus is passed off as the good ol' flu - as it now seems possibly already happened last year, if indeed all five strains of this virus originated here in the US, and perhaps even from Fort Detrick.

It is a broken nation, and nothing shows it as clearly as the current situation.

Posted by: Grieved | Mar 7 2020 2:18 utc | 77

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re Nemesiscalling | Mar 7 2020 2:00 utc | 73 who made some outrageous claims re vaccines.

Do you have peer reviewed evidence to substantiate your claim that whooping cough and influenza vaccines are not vaccines they are merely palliates which mask symptoms rather than prevent infection?
Even if that were true it still means people who choose not to use these vaccines are damn fools since they will get much sicker than those who do use them.

Posted by: A User | Mar 7 2020 2:37 utc | 78

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